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Referred: Resources

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1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Relating to the gathering and evalua-  
6 tion of comprehensive information  
7 about salmon stocks in the Arctic-  
8 Yukon-Kuskokwim management area.

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 WHEREAS the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (A-Y-K) fisheries management area  
11 contains all the interior river systems and the drainages of the Bering Sea  
12 and Arctic Ocean north of the Alaska Range and the Bristol Bay drainage from  
13 Cape Newenham to Demarcation Point at the Canadian Border, and includes not  
14 only coastal gillnet salmon fisheries but also freshwater gillnet and fish-  
15 wheel salmon fisheries; and

16 WHEREAS the subsistence salmon fisheries in the A-Y-K management area  
17 provide a primary source of food for many residents of the region; and

18 WHEREAS the commercial salmon fisheries in the A-Y-K management area  
19 provide the only significant occupational opportunities for many of the  
20 region's residents; and

21 WHEREAS the geographic nature of the A-Y-K management area and the  
22 rapid expansion of the commercial fisheries in that region dictate complex  
23 management and allocation concerns and issues for the Department of Fish and  
24 Game and the Board of Fisheries, particularly those issues and concerns  
25 stemming from interception of salmon in mixed stock fisheries along the  
26 fresh and saltwater migration routes; and

27 WHEREAS foreign fleets are currently intercepting western Alaska salmon  
28 in the Bering Sea Japanese mothership gillnet fishery, the Bering Sea-  
29 Aleutian Islands groundfish trawl fishery, the Gulf of Alaska groundfish

1 trawl fishery, and the Japanese land-based fishery; and

2 WHEREAS recent reports show that the Japanese mothership fishery alone  
3 intercepted 388,000 western Alaska chinook salmon in 1980, as contrasted  
4 with interception of 65,000 in 1979; and

5 WHEREAS the biological and economic ramifications in the A-Y-K manage-  
6 ment area stemming from the mixed stock interception fisheries and from the  
7 foreign interception of western Alaska salmon can be better evaluated if the  
8 Department of Fish and Game and the Board of Fisheries are granted the  
9 opportunity to complete the gathering and evaluation of necessary comprehen-  
10 sive information regarding salmon stock identification, enumeration, separa-  
11 tion, migration patterns and run timing, escapement, and smolt outmigration;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS the economic and social ramifications stemming from resource  
14 allocations among user groups and gear types in mixed stock interception  
15 fisheries in the A-Y-K management area and from the diminished subsistence  
16 and commercial opportunities occasioned by the foreign interception of  
17 western Alaska salmon can be ameliorated by improved in-season management by  
18 the Department of Fish and Game which is dependent on comprehensive informa-  
19 tion about the salmon stocks in the A-Y-K management area;

20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Governor is  
21 respectfully requested to direct the Department of Fish and Game to gather  
22 and analyze comprehensive information regarding the identification, enumera-  
23 tion, separation, migration patterns and run timing, escapement, and smolt  
24 outmigration of all salmon stocks in the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim management  
25 area; and be it

26 FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Fish and Game initiate the  
27 gathering and analysis of comprehensive information regarding the biological  
28 effects upon salmon stock escapement in streams of origin by the foreign  
29 interception of salmon bound for western Alaska; and be it

1        FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Fish and Game and the Board of  
2 Fisheries initiate and complete a comprehensive evaluation of the information  
3 known and to be gathered, and to present to the legislature each year, not  
4 later than 10 days after the convening of each session, a report identifying  
5 any gaps in information and the success of in-season management in alleviat-  
6 ing resource user and gear conflicts, and recommending appropriate action.

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